

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 4,5 and 11-26, and amend claims 1 and 6-10 without prejudice or disclaimer, resulting in the following set of claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for ~~in~~ a system including a first processor, ~~process~~ and a plurality of checkout stations, each checkout station including a respective second processor, a respective third processor, and a bar code reader ~~second processes~~, the a method comprising the steps, performed for each checkout station to perform a checkout transaction for a customer ~~second process~~, of:

reading a first location from a customer card via the second processor ~~process~~;

using the bar code reader to generate a first signal identifying a product selected by the customer;

sending the first signal to the third processor;

sending the first signal to the second processor;

determining, in the first processor ~~process~~, a second location ~~responsive to a content of the first location~~; and

writing to ~~reading~~ the second location of the customer card ~~from the first card~~ via the second processor ~~process~~.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the content of the first location includes a length.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the content of the first location includes a value characteristic.

Claim 4 (cancelled).

Claim 5 (cancelled).

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~each second process is located in a respective checkout station and~~ the method further includes sending a financial signal from the first processor ~~process~~ to the checkout station.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 6 wherein sending the financial signal includes sending to the second processor ~~process~~.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further including sending a signal identifying a product from the checkout station to the first processor ~~process~~.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~the system further includes a third process, each located in a respective checkout station, and~~ the method further includes sending a financial signal from the first processor

process to the third processor process.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 9 wherein sending the financial signal includes sending via the second processor process.

Claims 11-26 (cancelled).